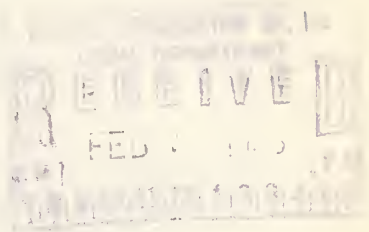


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WLXAL AND G.E. SHARE PAN AMERICAN WAVES

Good-will broadcasts to the Latin Americas from international short-wave stations in the United States were made possible this week when the Federal Communications Commission allocated four Pan American frequencies equally to General Electric and the World Wide Broadcasting Foundation, of Boston.

WLXAL, the Boston outlet, was awarded the frequencies 11,730 and 15,130 kc., while General Electric, which operates W2XAD and W2XAF, at Schenectady, was given 9,550 and 21,500 kc.

The National Broadcasting Company, which asked for the frequencies for its Chicago short-wave station, W9XF, was denied any share of the waves on the ground that its service would largely duplicate that of General Electric and that the latter would do it better.

The FCC left undisturbed the "loan" of the fifth Pan American frequency, 6120 kc., to the Columbia Broadcasting System, whose W2XE, at Wayne, N. J., uses it.

All of the allocations are on a temporary basis, however, and may be recalled at any time by the government should it ever decide to go forward with a government-owned Pan American station. No commercial announcements or advertising will be permitted.

The allocation was made coincident with the convening of the world radio conference at Cairo, Egypt, where nations will soon be scrambling for additional radio frequencies in the crowded broadcast spectrum. Had they not been assigned at this time, it is likely that a demand would have been made that they be given to other countries.

Lying idle since 1932, they were set aside by Executive Order following a Pan American Conference at Montevideo for use by the United States Government in fostering Pan American relations. At that time the United States planned to erect a Government short-wave station in or near Washington, D. C., and to operate it in the interest of this country and the nations south of the United States.

For varied reasons the station has never been built, and last Fall the Navy, which held the waves, became afraid that they might be taken away from the United States at Cairo were they not put to use by the first of February.

While a bill was introduced in the House by Representative Celler (D.), of New York, to authorize construction of a Government station, it was never endorsed by the Administration. The State Department, in fact, supported the application of the educational station, WLXAL, for all four of the frequencies.

The decision strengthens the position of General Electric as the foremost experimenter in the field of short-wave broadcasting in this country. Only a few months ago General Electric was authorized by the FCC to erect a supplementary international station on the West Coast to reach listeners in the Far East.

"Operating under the authority requested in this application Station W2XAD will provide a service to the Pan American countries", the FCC report stated. "As in the past, the programs to be rendered consist, in a large degree, of network material supplied by the National Broadcasting Company. In addition, educational programs are and will be supplied through contact with several of the larger universities. For service to the Central American countries, the General Electric Company will cooperate with the Pan American Union, from which it will receive suitable program material. The program department of Station W2XAD is under the supervision of one who has recently made a study of the needs and interests of the Pan American countries, and the type of program best suited to meet those needs and interests will be supplied.

"The so-called panel antenna was developed by the General Electric Company at Station W2XAD and tests indicate that it is an efficient directive system. A comprehensive program of research in this respect has been conducted by the applicant in the past, and will be continued as one of its major radio experiments.

"Knowledge of the signal strength in South America from European stations indicates that considerable power radiated from the United States, in the order of 100 kw, is necessary to deliver a comparable signal and thus overcome interference. This is particularly true for a broadcast service to the southern portion of South America."

Concerning WLXAL's plans, the FCC said:

"Through the use of the additional frequencies sought in this application, Station WLXAL would improve its broadcast service throughout the Pan American countries. In the matter of program material suitable for these countries, cooperation has been obtained from the heads of many large universities in the United States. Educational programs will be originated in the classrooms of those universities. The Pan American Union has associated itself with this station and has contributed program material suitable for use in the Pan American countries.

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Full cooperation from this institution will be given in the future. The Program Director of Station WLXAL has personally surveyed the foreign countries which will be supplied with service from the station and has become fully acquainted with the needs and interests of the various countries involved both from economic and cultural standpoints, and with the type of program material most desirable. Concrete plans have been formulated to transmit programs in accordance with the findings made as the result of this survey.

"The experimental work on directional antennas conducted by this applicant in the past, the general surveys to determine the reaction of the foreign audiences to the programs broadcast by WLXAL, and interference to the reception thereof, will be continued, using the additional facilities involved in this application. Transmissions by means of directional antennas will be used to accomplish an improved coverage in Central and South America. The directional arrays are to be so designated and constructed that the radiated energy is within a desired angle and directed for adequate coverage of the foreign service area selected."

Regarding NBC's application, the Commission observed:

"The proposals of the National Broadcasting Company and the General Electric Company regarding programs are substantially alike, in that each contemplates, for the most part, the use of regular chain material of the National Broadcasting Company. Consequently, if the applications of the General Electric Company and the National Broadcasting Company were granted, in part, and authority given to each to use a portion of these facilities, there would be the possibility of a duplication of the general type of program service in the foreign countries reached by the signals of their respective stations.

"Since the program of experimentation and research which has been and will be conducted by the General Electric Company is more meritorious than that of the National Broadcasting Company, and in view of the fact that its station (W2XAD) will render more substantial broadcast service by virtue of operations with power of 100 kw., it would follow that the General Electric Company is fitted to provide the service in question in a higher degree. Moreover, the General Electric Company requests only two of the four frequencies involved in this proceeding for a definite purpose, based on the results of actual engineering surveys."

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SENATE PRINTS RADIO LAW ARTICLES

Upon motion of Senator Bone (D.), of Washington, the Senate this week ordered printed as a Senate document, articles written by Andrew G. Haley, senior counsel of the Federal Communications Commission, on legal phases of broadcasting. They were published originally in the January issue of the George Washington Law Review. The Senate reprints may be purchased from the Government Printing Office.

In making the motion, Senator Bone said:

"They relate to the broadcasting of radio programs in the public interest, convenience, and necessity, and also cover the general question of libel on the radio. I think the articles will be intensely interesting to every Member of the Senate and probably to 99 percent of the lawyers of the country. They are well documented and thoroughly annotated."

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NEW NAVAL RADIO STATION READY BY SUMMER

The new naval radio communications station which is under construction about 15 miles outside Washington at Camp Springs, Md., will be ready for operation next Summer, Commdr. W. J. Ruble, of Naval Communications Division, told a House Committee this week.

Testifying in opposition to a plan to build a national airport at Camp Springs, Commander Ruble said that the flying field would seriously interfere with the radio station and would thereby hamper national defense plans.

The Navy has purchased 559 acres of land, completed construction of most of the permanent buildings and moved in part of its personnel, it was testified. By the middle of the Summer the Navy investment will total \$1,000,000 and the station will be practically ready for operation, Commander Ruble told the Committee.

"We have waited years to put into operation the world-wide receiving facilities now being completed at Cheltenham", Commander Ruble said. "Now that we have the station just about at the point of completion it is just inconceivable to me that an airport should be permitted to come in and destroy all this work and wipe out an investment of \$1,000,000, especially in view of the urgent need of the station as a matter of national defense."

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The 600-foot radio towers at Arlington, Va., probably will be removed as soon as additional facilities have been completed at the Navy transmitting station at Annapolis, Md., Commander Ruble testified. Congress has been asked for funds for installation of the substitute transmitting equipment at the Annapolis station.

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ENGINEER CITES POTENTIALITY OF "PIPED WAVES"

Communications channels more extensive than those of radio and wires may be opened by the development of "piped" electro-magnetic waves, according to George C. Southworth, research engineer of the Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Speaking this week at a meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers in New York City, Mr. Southworth demonstrated the transmission of the waves, which he said may be carried through rubber or metal tubes at a faster speed than light travels.

Investigators are finding, he said, that, paradoxically, as shorter and shorter guided waves are produced, the methods of controlling them proves easier. Mr. Southworth's lecture was reported at length by the New York Times.

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CBS NET EARNINGS \$4,297,600 FOR 1937

Net earnings of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc., for 1937 were estimated at approximately \$4,297,600, according to a notice sent to stockholders this week by Frank R. White, CBS treasurer.

The report is subject to an audit now being made and represents a jump in revenue of more than a half million dollars over the previous year's business, which was \$3,755,500.

The \$4,297,600 figure is equivalent to \$2.52 per share of CBS stock. Last year's \$3,755,500 was equivalent to \$2.20 per share.

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GRAVEN TURNS DOWN OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO CAIRO

Although he is admittedly the best informed member of the Federal Communications Commission on the technical aspects of radio, Commissioner T.A.M. Craven will not go to the International Telecommunications Conference at Cairo unless serious complications develop.

Commander Craven was not appointed a delegate by the President, but the understanding was that he might join the delegation later after he had submitted the economic report on broadcasting.

The reason for the change in plans, it is understood, is that the FCC expects to promulgate new rules and regulations and study the reallocation proposed by its Engineering Department. As Commander Craven drafted the report, his presence is held essential if any shake-up is to be ordered in the near future.

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AUSTRIAN S-W STATION TO BROADCAST TO U. S.

The Austrian radio broadcasting company "RAVAG" has decided to construct a 50 kilowatt short-wave transmitter in the Spring of 1938, according to the American Commercial Attache at Vienna. At present the plans for this transmitter are being examined but no decision has yet been made with regard to its location.

The antennae will consist of one circular aerial on an iron tower 60-70 meters high, to which will be added at a later date four directional aerials, one pair of which will be directed via England to the United States and in the opposite direction toward the Orient, the other pair toward South America and eastern Asia.

The order will be placed with the firm of Czeija, Nissl & Co., XX Dresdner-strasse 75, Vienna, which represents the interests of an American firm.

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NAB SHAKE-UP HELD SURE AS CONVENTION NEARS

Complete reorganization of the National Association of Broadcasters appeared certain this week as broadcasters prepared for the largest convention of the trade organization ever held. The meeting will be at the Willard Hotel in Washington February 14-16th.

Leading broadcasters predicted that there will be little, if any, opposition to the plan proposed by the reorganization committee for employing a paid president and secretary-treasurer along with departmental directors.

A large variety of "big names" has been suggested for the post of president, but indications at present are that Philip G. Loucks, Washington attorney and counsel of the Reorganization Committee, will be retained at least temporarily as Acting President or an advisory counsel.

The NAB program will include addressed by Senator Wheeler (D.), of Montana, Commissioners Frank R. McNinch and T.A.M. Craven and Representative Barton (D.), of New York, who also is Chairman of the Board of Batton, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, Inc., New York advertising agency.

The reorganization plan proposes the abolition of the post of Managing Director, now held by James W. Baldwin, but would pay him his salary until June.

A New Board of Directors will be set up under the shake-up as the plan proposes to divide the country into seventeen districts, each of which would name a Director to serve for two years.

Under present plans the convention will be closed except to NAB members.

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The 300th anniversary of the Swedish settlement on the Delaware is to be celebrated next year both in Sweden and the United States. The Swedish Broadcasting Company is preparing a series of talks on Swedish colonization and emigration to America, and one of their reporters is touring this country with a recording van. He has visited the territory round the Great Lakes, where most of the Swedes live, collecting broadcasting material. The subsequent programs will give an interesting and vivid picture of the daily life of the two million Swedes now living in U.S.A.

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TRADE NOTES

Now on the high seas, bound for Australia, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley M. Angle sailed January 19th from Vancouver via the S.S. "Niagara", to represent the Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Mfg. Co., of Rochester, N. Y., and Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Mfg. Co., of Canada, Ltd., of Toronto, Ontario, at the first World Radio Conference, to be held at Sydney.

Alleging the use of unfair methods of competition in the interstate sale of candy and other merchandise including radios, washing machines and electric razors, the Federal Trade Commission has issued complaints against two Chicago concerns, Fascination Candy Co., 1137 North Wood St., and Roy B. Davis, 1737 Howard St., trading as Great Lakes Novelty Co., and Great Lakes Radio & Novelty Co.

Five men, prominent not only in their own particular spheres, but for their familiarity with amateur radio activities in this country, have been named to the Board of Award for the Second William S. Paley Amateur Radio Award for outstanding performance in 1937 for research, technical development or operating achievement in this field. Members of the Board are Rear Admiral Cary T. Grayson, Chairman of the American Red Cross; The Honorable C. P. Edwards, Director of Radio, Canadian Department of Marine; Rear Admiral Russell Randolph Waesche, Commandant, United States Coast Guard; Dr. J. H. Dellinger, Chief of the Radio Section, U. S. Bureau of Standards, and Professor A. E. Kennelly, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering at Harvard.

A new station at Charleston, W. Va., to be built by the Kanawha Valley Broadcasting Co. was recommended to the Federal Communications Commission this week by Examiner R. H. Hyde. The requested facilities are 1500 kc., 100 watts, unlimited time.

The total number of wireless licenses in Germany on January 1st is officially given as 9,087,454, an increase during December of 291,487. The number of free licenses is not mentioned. Belgium passed the 1,000,000 mark during December.

Denial of the application of John P. Harris, of Hutchinson, Kans., for a construction permit to use 710 kc. with 1 KW power, daytime, was recommended to the Federal Communications Commission this week by Examiner Robert L. Irwin.

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MAE WEST PROTESTS BOOST RADIO HOUR'S FOLLOWING

Despite the loud protests of churchmen and Congressmen and the rebuke administered to the National Broadcasting Company by the Federal Communications Commission because of the Mae West "Adam and Eve" skit in the Chase & Sanborn Hour, the radio listeners apparently liked it.

The radio audience of the Chase & Sanborn Hour, which features Charlie McCarthy, has grown since the incident, according to Variety, mouthpiece of the amusement industry.

"Chase & Sanborn's Sunday night hour on NBC zooms to an all-time C.A.B. popularity rating of 44.9 in the latest compilation of that copyrighted trade barometer", the periodical stated this week. "This is a jump of around 7 points since the Mae West-Don Ameche skit that caused all the uproar, censorship threats, apologies, spanking and headaches.

"Looks like the public is not concerned with the moral aspects of the much-vaunted case. Or that the front page and pulpit advertising compensated for all the difficulties by stimulating an audience perk-up.

"By the standards, and on the mathematical logic of C.A.B., figure of 44.9 means that about half the radio sets in the United States tune in on the Edgar Bergen-Charlie McCarthy gallop."

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JAPAN OPENS LARGEST ORIENTAL STATION

Becoming the most powerful radio station in the Orient, JOAK started broadcasting on 150 kilowatt power regularly the first of this year, with the completion of the two studios at Kawaguchi and Hatogaya, in Saitama prefecture, which were built for the purpose, according to the Japan Times and Mail, Tokyo.

JOAK had previously used only 10 kilowatt power, and its new broadcasting studios will enable more people to hear its programs with simpler receivers and less hum. As a result of the new system, fewer broadcasting stations will be needed in the country and it will become easier to hear Japanese programs in foreign countries, but reception of foreign programs will become difficult, the newspaper said.

"Building of powerful stations is now the fashion all over the world", it added. "The Soviet Union and the United States each have one of 500 kilowatt power, and Finland and Luxemburg each have one of 220 kilowatts."

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BROADCASTING ABROAD - POLAND

Broadcasting in Poland is under the control of Polskie Radio (The Polish Radio Co.) which is a Government-owned and operated enterprise, according to the U. S. Commerce Department. The broadcast programs, which still have room for improvement from an American standpoint, are supported by subscription fees paid by radio owners. At its beginning only 40 percent of Polskie Radio was owned by the Government but in 1935 this percentage was increased practically to the exclusion of private interest except for technical assistance purposes.

Poland has nine long-wave broadcasting stations at Lwow, Torun, Poznan, Wilno, Katowice, Crakow, Lodz and two at Warsaw, all operating in the middle wave band with one exception, ranging from 224 to 559.7 meters. The exception is SP1 of Warsaw or Warszawa I (Raszyn) on 1339 meters. There is only one short-wave broadcasting station in Poland, station SPW located at Crakow. All of the long-wave stations are owned and operated by Polskie Radio but the present short-wave station is owned by the "Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. Polskie Radio is constructing its own short-wave station.

The "Research Bureau" of Polskie Radio advised that in 1936 there were at station Warsaw I a total of 16,832 different broadcasts extending over a total time of 4,512 hours and 2 minutes. Included in these totals were 4,300 music broadcasts extending over 2,438 hours, or 54.0 percent of the total time; 9,866 talks, 1,375 hours, 30.5 percent; 1,886 mixed broadcasts, 359 hours, 8.0 percent; 81 church services, 9 hours, 2 percent, 300 gymnastic broadcasts, 82 hours, 1.9 percent; and 409 advertising broadcasts, 169 hours, or 3.8 percent.

In the first half of 1937 there were at station Warsaw I a total of 2,018 music broadcasts extending over 1,174 hours, or 52.3 percent of the total time; 4,591 talks, divided, 869 brief talks, 239 literature talks and 3,483 news reports, extending over a total time of 590 hours, or 26.3 percent divided, 157 hours, or 7.0 percent for brief talks, 87 hours, or 3.9 percent, for literary talks and 346 hours, or 15.4 percent for news reports; 197 mixed broadcasts, 114 hours or 5.1 percent; 56 church sermons, 62 hours, 2.8 percent; 174 gymnastic broadcasts, 47 hours, 2.1 percent; 140 advertising broadcasts (up to April 1, 1937), 38 hours, 1.7 percent; and 924 broadcasts for special groups, 225 hours, 9.8 percent.

Advertising, which did not reach American standards, was interspersed between records in the recorded musical programs but on April 1, 1937, all commercial advertising over the radio was discontinued. In 1936 the income from advertising amounted to 555,359 zlotys, and up to April 1, 1937, 172,723 zlotys.

Slightly more than 20 percent of the broadcasting time of the most important Polish radio stations is devoted to the broadcasting of recorded music. Additional time is devoted to recorded talks but this time is not regular. Poland offers only a very small market for American made phonograph records.

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